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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,295	09/30/2003	Andrea Urban	10191/3212A	8189
26646	7590	02/08/2006	EXAMINER	
KENYON & KENYON LLP			AHMED, SHAMIM	
ONE BROADWAY			ART UNIT	
NEW YORK, NY 10004			PAPER NUMBER	

1765

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/676,295

Applicant(s)

URBAN ET AL.

Examiner

Shamim Ahmed

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 0125.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 May 1125 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 11/25/05. These drawings are acceptable.

Terminal Disclaimer

3. The terminal disclaimer filed on 11/25/05 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of co-pending US application serial No. 10/473,831 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-3,7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grunwald (4,863,549).

Grunwald teaches a plasma etching process for etching a silicon body with photoresist masking layer including the step of generating the plasma, which inherently includes at least approximately ambipolar plasma by injecting high frequency power into

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the substrate via the substrate electrode (6), wherein the plasma is modulated or pulsed as a function of time (abstract and col.2, lines 43-col.3, lines 1-39).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 4-6, 10-15 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grunwald (4,863,549) in view of Koshimizu (5,290,383).

Grunwald discusses above in the paragraph 5 but fail to teach adding an inert gas in the plasma.

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However, in a controlled plasma etching process of silicon substrate, Koshimizu teaches the addition of inert gas into the plasma in order to stabilize the plasma (col.14, lines 29-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of claimed invention to combine Koshimizu's teaching into Laermer et al's process for stabilizing the plasma as taught by Koshimizu.

As to claim 10, it would have been obvious to pause the plasma pulse during the pause of the substrate pulse.

9. Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grunwald (4,863,549) in view of Hashimoto et al (5,779,925).

Grunwald discusses above in the paragraph 5 but fail to teach synchronizing the modulation and the low-frequency modulation with one another.

However, Hashimoto et al teach that the RF bias is synchronized with the on/off modulation in order to reduce charging damage with out lowering the through put (col.16, lines 35-42, lines 66-col.17, line 5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of claimed invention to combine Hashimoto et al's teaching into Grunwald 's process for reducing charging damage and for improved etching precision as taught by Hashimoto et al.

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10. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grunwald (4,863,549) in view of Dockrey (4,799,991).

Grunwald discusses above in the paragraph 5 and also teach that the under etching can be performed using SF_6 (col.2, lines 64-65) but fail to teach that the under etching is performed using highly oxidizing fluorine compound includes ClF_3 .

However, in a process of silicon etching, Dockrey teaches both the SF_6 and ClF_3 can be used as an efficient etchant for silicon (see claims 7 and 12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of claimed invention to combine Dockrey's teaching into Grunwald's process because both SF_6 and ClF_3 are functionally equivalent as taught by Dockrey.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Collins (5,888,414) teaches silicon-etching process including modulating/pulsing the plasma.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shamim Ahmed whose telephone number is (571) 272-1457. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thu (7:00-5:30) Every Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine G. Norton can be reached on (571) 272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Shamim Ahmed
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1765

SA
February 4, 2006